

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1270

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, KS, US

SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US RELATED TOPICS, MAY 24

REF: SEOUL 4343 (DTG 230918Z MAY 78)

1. BRZEZINSKI SEOUL VISIT. HEADLINE COVERAGE PLUS EDITORIALS, COMMENTARY AND BACKGROUND PIECES IN ALL PRESS. TONE OF EDITORIALS GENERALLY POSITIVE, EXPECTING VISIT TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD IMPROVING US/ROK RELATIONS. WHILE NOTING CARTER ADMINISTRATION "HAD SO FAR NEGLECTED THE KOREA QUESTION", TONGA ILBO OPINES VISIT SHOWS RENEWED INTEREST IN KOREA. SOME EDITORIALS VOICE HOPE VISIT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO US "REASSESSMENT" OF KOREA SITUATION. COMMENTARIES PREDICT DISCUSSIONS WILL FOCUS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL, SUBSTANCE OF PEKING DISCUSSIONS, STRATEGY FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY, AND BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL. CHUNGANG ILBO CAUTIONED AGAINST WHAT IT PERCEIVED AS "HASTY" US MOVEMENT TOWARD JOINT US/PRC OPPOSITION TO USSR. SEOUL SINMUN REASONS THAT BECAUSE

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OF KIM IL-SONG'S INTRANSIGENCE, EFFORTS TOWARD KOREA SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN STYMIED AND THEREFORE PAPER ADVISES POLICY OF "ISOLATE P'YONGYANG FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY". SEOUL SINMUN PREDICTS ROKG WILL URGE "FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION" OF COMPENSATORY MEASURES; WILL EXPRESS CONCERN OVER CONGRESS, EMPHASIZNG CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES DO NOT COMPLY WITH

NATIONAL INTEREST OF EITHER ROK OR US. TONGA ILBO GOSSIP COMMENTS 5/24 RECEPTION WILL AFFORD KOREAN GUESTS OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING BOTH OUTGOING AND INCOMING US AMBASSADORS. GHUNGANG ILBO GOSSIP SAYS FORMIN DOES NOT EXPECT ANYTHING SURPRISING FROM BRZEZINSKI AND THINKS IT UNLIKELY BRZEZINSKI WILL PUT FORWARD NEW IDEAS.

2. BRZEZINSKI/FUKUDA. TOKYO CORRESPONDENTS REPORT FOLLOWING AS MAIN POINTS IN MEETING: A) BRZEZINSKI INFORMED PRC OF US INTENTION NOT TO DISTURB KOREAN PENINSULA SECURITY; B) ALTHOUGH AGREEING ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, US/PRC HAD MAJOR DIVERGENCE OF VIEW ON KOREA; C) PRC REPEATED DEMAND FOR USFK WITHDRAWAL; AND D) US REPEATED OPPOSITION TO CONTACT WITH DPRK EXCLUDING ROK.

3. KOREA AID. WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS REPORT 5/23 HIRC FAILURE TO DECIDE ON MODIFIED AMENDMENT. SINA ILBO CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT EVIDENCE SHOWING AS MANY AS TEN INCUMBENTS MAY HAVE RECEIVED MONEY FROM KIM DONG-JO (AP STORY CITING ETHICS COMMITTEE SOURCES CARRIED IN ALL PRESS) MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO HARDLINE RESOLUTION DEMANDING TESTIMONY. IN RELATED PIECE, CORRESPONDENTS REPORT STRATTON AMENDMENT REFERRED TO HIRC AND "ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE DELETED".

4. CBO REPORT. COVERAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
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REPORT RELEASED 5/23 SAYS ROK CAN DETER NORTH KOREAN INVASION EVEN WITHOUT PRESENCE OF SECOND DIVISION. REPORT NOTES NO BUDGETARY SAVING RESULT FROM SECOND DIVISION WITHDRAWAL UNLESS DIVISION IS DISBANDED.

5. CEAUSESCU. TOKYO REPORTS ON CEAUSESCU P'YONGYANG
DEPARTURE NOTE COMMUNIQUE HAD NOT MENTION OF TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL AND LACKED DIRECT DENUNCIATION OF US AND ROK.
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